

Message Text

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UNCLAS ATHENS 8279

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SUBJECT: STATEMENTS ON ELECTIONS BY POLITICAL LEADERS

REF: ATHENS 8246

1. VARIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE ISSUE STATEMENTS ON NOVEMBER 17 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. CENTER UNION CHIEFTAIN GEORGE MAVROS STATED THAT ELECTION RESULTS WERE DUE TO "ANXIETY ARTIFICIALLY CAUSED BY SLOGANS OF PARTY RECEIVING THE MAJORITY" (NEA DEMOKRATIA), AS WELL AS TO THE "ROLE PLAYED BY THE DISRUPTING GROUP". (PAPANDREOU'S PASOK PARTY). MAVROS ASSERTED THAT THE "STATE OF AFFAIRS EMERGING FROM ELECTIONS IS MERELY TRANSITIONAL".

2. PASOK'S TEMPORARY CENTRAL COMMITTEE ISSUED STATEMENT ALLEGING THAT ELECTION RESULTS DEMONSTRATE THAT "VOTERS FELL INTO THE TRAP OF FALSE DILEMMA -- I.E. EITHER CARAMANLIS OR THE TANKS -- AND REACTED ACCORDINGLY." STATEMENT DECLARED THAT, FOR PASOK MOVEMENT, ELECTIONS REPRESENT NOTHING BUT "ONE POINT IN THE COURSE" WHICH PASOK BEGAN ON SEPTEMBER 3 -- A COURSE THAT "WILL CONTINUE UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH CONSISTENCY AND DETERMINATION." PASOK SLOGAN REMAINS:

"ORGANIZATION AND STRUGGLE".

3. MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AVEROFF ASSERTED THAT TWO ASPECTS OF ELECTION RESULTS PARTICULARLY SATISFY HIM: (A) THE TRIUMPH OF CARAMANLIS WHICH SECURED FOR GREECE A FIRM, STRONG, ENLIGHTENED AND DURABLE GOVERNMENT AND (B) THE DISAPPROVAL SHOWN OF THE VIOLENT DEMAGOGY OF ANDREAS PAPANDREOU.

4. THE EDA LEADERSHIP (ONE COMPONENT OF THE UNITED LEFT) STATED THAT RESULTS WERE NOT SURPRISING, IN VIEW OF ELECTORAL LAW AND LACK OF NECESSARY DEMOCRATIC CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ELECTIONS HELD. DECLARATION NOTED THAT COLLAPSE OF GAROUFALIAS PARTY HAS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE. IT CONTENDED THAT THE VOTE FOR CARAMANLIS IS A VOTE BINDING HIM TO HIS PLEDGES FOR CATHARSIS AND DEJUNTIZATION. FINALLY, EDA DECLARATION APPEALS TO FOLLOWERS OF EDA AND COMMUNIST PARTY (INTERIOR) TO JOIN RANKS IN "NEW STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY, NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS".

5. SECRETARY GENERAL OF GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY (EXTERIOR) FLORAKIS STATED THAT UNITED LEFT HAD SUSTAINED ITS TEST AND EMERGED FROM ELECTORAL CONTEST "WITH SUCCESS". HE ASSERTED THAT SLOGAN "CARAMANLIS OR THE TANKS" HAD SEALED ELECTION RESULTS. HE CRITICIZED PASOK FOR CONFUSING LEFT-WINGERS AND PUSHING SOME OF THEM TOWARDS CARAMANLIS' PARTY

6. IN ADDITIONAL STATEMENT TO THAT REPORTED REFTEL PM CARAMANLIS EXPRESSED "DEEP GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE WHO HONORED ME WITH THEIR VOTE". HE ASSURED VOTERS THAT "I WILL DO WHATEVER IS WITHIN MY POWER TO JUSTIFY YOUR TRUST". TO DO THIS, HE EXPRESSED HIS NEED FOR THE "CONSTANT AND CONTINUOUS SUPPORT OF ALL GREEKS".

7. MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER GHIKAS EVENING NOVEMBER 17 STATED ENTIRE ELECTORAL PROCEDURE CARRIED OUT IN CIVILIZED ATMOSPHERE, ONE WHICH COMPLETE POLITICAL MATURITY OF GREEK PEOPLE. HE DESCRIBED CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH VOTING HELD AS COMPRISING "A CALM CLIMATE OF TRANQUILITY AND EXEMPLARY ORDER".

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